Multipurpose identity cards for voters

3596. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that every multipurpose identity card for voter costs Rs. 7.50 and the price is bound to go up in future;

(b) whether Government would recognise the passports held by certain voters for this purpose, in order to avoid duplications; and

(c) if so, what is the number of passports so far issued to Indian citizens who are above the age of 18 years, who will be eligible to vote in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) The cost of the identity card was Rs. 7.50 when the scheme was introduced in Nagaland in 1982. Present day cost would undoubtedly be higher.

(b) Passports cannot be substituted for multi-purpose identity cards for electors because only a very small fraction of the vast electorate in the country, would be in possession of passports. Moreover, Passport also do not contain other vital information relevant for election purposes, like electoral roll number, name of the constituency, etc.

(c) Such statistics are not maintained; Passport Offices do not keep data on possport holders agewise.

Composition of the present Finance Commission

3597. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the composition of the present Finance Commission; and

(b) whether any representation has been given to the S.C./S.T. persons therin; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The President vide his order dated 17-6-1987 under Article 280 of the Constitution, constituted the present (i.e. the Ninth) Finance Commission as under:

1. Shri N.K.P. Salve, Member of Parliament	Chairman
2. Shri Justice Abdus Sattar Qureshi, Judge, Gujarat High Court	Member
3. Dr. Raja J. Chelliah, Member, Planning Commission	Member.
4. Shri Lal Thanhawala, Former Chief Minister of Mizoram	Member.
5. Shri Mahesh Prasad	Member-Secretary.

(b) The Commission was constituted keeping in view the qualifications as laid down in Clause (3) of the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951, enacted under Clause (2) of article 280 of the Constitution, for appointment as Chairman and Members of the Finance Commission. These are as under-

"The Chairman of the Commission shall be selected from among persons who have had experience in public affairs, and the four other members shall be selected from among persons who-

(i) are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court; or

(ii) have special knowledge of the Finances and accounts of Government; or

(iii) have had wide experience in financial matters and in administration; or

(iv) have special knowledge of economics."

Composition of Central Board of Excise and Customs and Central Board of Direct Taxes

3598. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the composition of Central Board of Excise and Customs and Central Board of Direct Taxes; and

(b) whether any representation has been given to S.C./S.T. persons on these Boards; if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Each Board has a Chairman and not more than six other Members.

(b) No, Sir. No S.C./S.T. Officer in the field of eligibility was found suitable for appointment to either Board.

Representation to Scheduled Castes in various Boards

3599. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the composition of the National Wastelands Development Board, the Central Water Pollution Control Board and the Central Air Pollution Control Board, respectively; and

(b) what are the details of the representation given to the Scheduled Castes in each such Board?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The current composition of the National Wastelands Development Board and the Central Pollution Control Board, are given in Statement I (*See* below) and Statement II (*See* below) respectively. The Central Pollution Control Board exercises the powers and performs the functions envisaged in the Water (Prevention and Control of Water Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution Act, 1981.

(b) There is no special provision for the representation of Scheduled Castes on each of the above mentioned Boards.

Statement I

Composition of National Wastelands Development Board

1. Union Minister of Environment and Forests	—Chairman
2. Sh. Duleep Matthai	—Vice Chairman
3. Member, Planning Commission	—Member
4. Three members of Parliament	—Members
5. Secretaries to the Government of India in the Departments of Agriculture and Cooperation, Rural Development	—Members
6. Secretary, to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Finance, (Deptt. of Expenditure)	—Member (Finance)
7. Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.	—Member
8. Inspector General of Forests	—Member
9. Representatives of Voluntary Agencies and Cooperative Institutions etc. (not exceeding six) to be nominated by the Chairman	—Members
10. Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests	—Member-Secretary